



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS: Children are Georgia's greatest resource and blessing. Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders threaten not only members of our younger population, but all age groups, and pose a risk to the future of our state; and
- WHEREAS: Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term that describes a variety of conditions that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. FASD may affect anyone, regardless of ethnicity, income, socioeconomic status, or education; and
- WHEREAS: According to the National Organization of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, an estimated 40,000 infants are born with FASD each year; and
- WHEREAS: FASD is 100 percent preventable when pregnant women abstain from alcohol during pregnancy; and
- WHEREAS: FASD may contribute to numerous social issues and developmental disorders, including learning disabilities, scholastic failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and criminal behavior. Individuals with FASD are 19 times more likely to experience an intellectual disability, 7 times more likely to experience attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and 3 to 5 times more likely to experience a learning disability; and
- WHEREAS: FASD is often referred to as the "invisible disability" and can have a heightened impact on children in foster care and those in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice; and
- WHEREAS: Children and adults affected by FASD have the ability to succeed with proper treatment, appropriate strategies, interventions, and interdependence. Increasing public awareness of the effects of prenatal consumption of alcohol for primary prevention and the need to support individuals with FASD and their families will contribute to the productive development of these individuals and help to improve their family stability and quality of life; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2018, as FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 24th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF